



Department of Justice

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Western District of Kentucky

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**OWENSBORO MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSION WITH THE INTENT TO
DISTRIBUTE CRACK COCAINE AND POSSESSION OF A FIREARM BY A
CONVICTED FELON**

LOUISVILLE, KY - Vermicki San Juan Watts, age 32, of 3305 Oriole Court, in Owensboro, Kentucky, in Daviess County, pled guilty on April 30, 2007, to possession with the intent to distribute crack cocaine and possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, David L. Huber, United States Attorney for the Western District of Kentucky, and Paul Vido, Special Agent in Charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Louisville Field Division, jointly announced today.

Watts admitted that on October 24, 2006, he possessed, at his home, crack cocaine that he intended to distribute, a digital scale and materials used to package crack cocaine for distribution; and a .45 caliber, semi-automatic, Taurus model PT-145 pistol with ammunition, after having previously been convicted of a Class D felony, trafficking in marijuana, in a 2002 case out of Vanderburgh County, Indiana, Case #92D02-0201-FD-59, which conviction prohibited his possession of any firearm.

The maximum potential penalties are 30 years imprisonment, a \$2,250,000 fine, and supervised release for a period of 6 years..

The case was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorney Ann Claire Phillips, and it was investigated by the Owensboro Police Department and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

The plea was entered before Joseph H. McKinley, Jr., Judge, United States District Court, Owensboro, Kentucky.

Watts is scheduled to be sentenced before Judge McKinley on July 31, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. in Owensboro, Kentucky.

This is a **Project Backfire** prosecution. **Project Backfire** is a partnership of state and federal law enforcement which targets violent offenders for prosecution to the fullest extent of state and federal law.

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